

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-27 remain pending in the application. Claim 14 has been amended. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-5, 7-12 and 17-20, and for indicating that claims 15, 16 and 21-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on November 12, 2004.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 14 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Abe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,918). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The present invention relates to a an electronic camera. The electronic camera of the present invention includes, inter alia, at least one optical element disposed in the electronic camera, and a charge eliminating device that eliminates a static electric charge from the optical element. The charge eliminating device includes, for example, but not limited to, a brushing device having a conductive and grounded brush. The electronic camera also includes a brush driver that causes the brushing device to move across the surface of the optical element while the optical element is fixed in place.

Abe is directed to an electro-developing type camera. The camera includes a

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medium holder 24 which holds electro-developing recording media RM therein. See Figure 1 and col. 5, lines 50-52. In one embodiment, the camera includes a brush assembly 54. See Figure 3 and col. 7, lines 20-24. In one embodiment, as the medium holder 24 is moved towards a photographing position, the light receiving surfaces of the electro-developing recording media RM are contacted and swept with the brush 54 during the passage of the medium holder 24 into a slot 48. See Figure 3 and col. 8, lines 25-30.

Applicants respectfully submit that Abe fails to disclose an electronic camera that includes a brush driver that causes a brushing device to traverse the surface of an optical element while the optical element is fixed in place, as recited in claim 14 of the present application. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention, as defined by claim 14, is not anticipated by Abe, and respectfully request such an indication from the Examiner.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 15, 16 and 21-27 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 14.

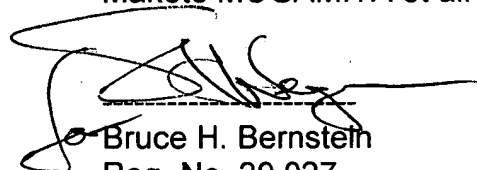
Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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